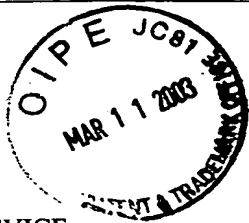


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Sakata et al.
 Serial No. 09/960,093
 Filed: September 21, 2001
 For: MAGNETIC DISK DEVICE
 WITH WIND SHIELD MEMBERS
 Art Unit: 2652



I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST-CLASS mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this date.

5 March 03

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Registration No. 29367

Attorney for Applicant

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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Technology Center 2600

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

This IDS is submitted:

- (X) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), or
 (Within three months of filing national application; or date of entry of national application; or before mailing date of first office action on the merits; whichever occurs last).
- () under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) together with either a:
 () Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e); or
 () a \$180.00 fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p), or
 (After the C.F.R. § 1.97(b) time period, but before final action or notice of allowance, whichever occurs first)
- () under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) together with a:
 () Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), and
 () a petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d)(2), and
 () a \$180.00 petition fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
 (Filed after final action or notice of allowance, whichever occurs first, but before payment of the issue fee)

(X) The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

(X) Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO 1449 - Information Disclosure Citation together with copies of patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe(s) may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

(X) A concise explanation of the relevance of foreign language patents, foreign language publications and other foreign language information listed on PTO Form 1449, as presently understood by the individual(s) designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content is given on the attached sheet, or where a foreign language patent is cited in a search report or other action by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, an English language version of the search report or action which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is enclosed herewith.

It is requested that the information disclosed herein be made of record in this application.

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